

**Anthropology 425**  
**Anthropological Archaeology**  
**Spring 2008**  
**T and R 3:00-4:15, Stone Hall 217**

Professor Vaughn  
Stone Hall 316  
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494-4700  
Office Hours: Tuesdays: 1-2 or by appt.

**Introduction**

This course will introduce you to the theories and the multidisciplinary methods employed in contemporary archaeology. Topics will include how archaeologists reconstruct human culture, social and political organization, diet, and many other aspects of past society and culture. Generally, we will consider how archaeologists interpret and explain past behavior through the analysis of materials from the archaeological record. Although the structure of the course focuses on archaeological methods and theories, it will be interspersed with case studies that demonstrate how archaeologists actually reconstruct human behavior and address anthropological questions about the past.

**Anthropology 201**

As many of you know, the Anthropology major is undergoing some transformation. As a result, Anthropology 201: Introduction to Archaeology and World Prehistory is a highly recommended prerequisite for this class (by next year it will be required). If you have not taken 201 (or Anth 204 when there was a significant archaeological component), you should come see me some time during the beginning of the semester.

**Course structure**

Classes will consist of lectures, discussion and films. Students will be expected to read the materials ahead of time and to be active participants in the class discussions.

**Textbooks**

Renfrew, Colin and Paul Bahn  
2004 *Archaeology: Theories, Methods, and Practice*. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Thames & Hudson.  
This is the basic text for the course, and it provides the structure for the schedule.  
Each chapter highlights the methods that archaeologists use to reconstruct a specific aspect of past human behavior and how this behavior is interpreted from an anthropological perspective.

The reading assignments are listed in the schedule below. Additional readings or other relevant handouts may be assigned or handed out when appropriate. You are expected to do the reading for each day **prior to coming to class**. This is very important, as we do not have enough time in class to go over every detail that the book already provides. Please come to class prepared!!!

**Course Web Site**

The course web site is located at <http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~kjvaughn/an425.html>. Please go to this site for additional readings, assignments, etc.

PLEASE NOTE THAT BECAUSE OF SERIAL ABUSE IN THE PAST  
I DO NOT POST MY SLIDES ONLINE

## Course Requirements

Your course grade will be based on assignments (some of which will require more time than others), a research paper, three exams, and three unannounced quizzes for 1000 points total.

### **Assignments** (75 points each, 225 total 22.5%)

The assignments are designed so that you give some thought to specific archaeological problems related to what we discuss in class and what you are reading. The assignments vary in length but most will involve considerable time to complete and at least 5 pages of written work from you.

### **Research Paper** (200 points, 20%)

20% of your grade will be a research paper (10 page minimum) where you will conduct detailed original research on a particular question in archaeological research. Topics can include some of the major topics in archaeological research (the origins of agriculture, the origins of inequality, the origins of states, the peopling of the new world, the origins of language, etc.), or it can be more specific (e.g., the development of village life in the Eastern Woodlands, gender studies in archaeological analysis, textile production in the Inca Empire, etc.). The choice of topics is open and it is your responsibility to begin early to explore possible topics that might interest you (of course, feel free to consult with me if you are having trouble). Your paper will be an overview of how this question/problem has been approached theoretically and methodologically in contemporary archaeology.

### **Exams** (500 points, 50%)

Exam 1 = 150 points

Exam 2 = 150 points

Exam 3 = 200 points

There are three exams that will be composed of short answers, identifications, and essays. The exams will cover lectures, readings, films, and discussions. The second and third exams are not technically comprehensive, though obviously concepts learned early on will apply in later material.

Please note that except for medical or family emergencies, **there are no makeup exams.**

### **Quizzes** (75 points, 7.5%)

There will be three unannounced quizzes given throughout the semester each worth 25 points. These will be composed of multiple choice, true false and fill in the blank questions. They will be based on readings, lectures, films, etc. Anything is fair game.

**You cannot make up these quizzes** whether you missed class for a legitimate reason or not, so do not ask!

## Grading

Grades are assigned on a 10% scale:

A = 90-100% B = 80-89.9% C = 70-79.9% D = 60-69.9% F = Below 59.9%

**Schedule** (this schedule is subject to change at my discretion)

Week 1 (1/8-1/10); Read Renfrew and Bahn (RB) Chapter 1  
Introduction: The goals of archaeology (review of basic concepts)  
**Thursday: no class Institute of Andean Studies Meetings, Berkeley, CA**

Week 2 (1/15-1/17); RB Chapter 2; Motel of the Mysteries  
The remains of behavior

Week 3 (1/22-1/24); RB Chapter 3 (to pg. 110)  
Survey and sampling

Week 4 (1/29-1/31); RB Chapter 3 (finish), Chapter 4  
Excavations, Chronology

Week 5 (2/5-2/7)  
Chronology

<b>Exam 1 Tuesday 2/5</b>
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Week 6 (2/12-2/14); RB Chapter 5  
Reconstructing sociopolitical organization

Week 7 (2/19-2/21); RB Chapter 6  
Environmental Reconstruction

Week 8 (2/26-2/28); RB Chapter 7  
Subsistence and diet

Week 9 (3/4-3/6); no additional reading

<b>Exam 2 Tuesday 3/4</b>
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(3/11-3/13) SPRING BREAK

Week 10 (3/18-3/20); RB Chapters 8 and 9  
Technology and exchange: The anthropology of production, distribution, and consumption

Week 11 (3/25); RB Chapter 10  
Cognitive archaeology  
**Thursday: no class SAA meetings in Vancouver, B.C.**

Week 12 (4/1-4/3); RB Chapters 11 and 12  
Explanation in archaeology

Week 13 (4/8-4/10); RB Chapter 13  
Case studies

Week 14 (4/15-4/17); no additional reading  
Case studies (cont.)

<b>Exam 3 Thursday 4/17</b>
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Week 15 (4/22-4/24); RB Chapter 14  
Contemporary archaeology

**Final paper due Monday 4/28**

**Anthropology majors portfolio requirements:**

Anthropology majors: please remember to keep clean copies of all of your written assignments for your anthropology portfolios. During your final semester, you will compile a portfolio of your significant written work in anthropology and from other courses, too, if you wish. Bind these selections topped by duplicate copies of the table of contents (indicating course and semester), and submit the portfolio to the anthropology secretary at least a month before graduation. The portfolio will be returned for your archives. The department's website(<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/anthropology/undergraduate/>) provides further information about the portfolio requirement and exit interview.